

TOP SECRET



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

3 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)
Director, National Security Agency (NSA)

SUBJECT: Reconnaissance Operations (U)

I wish to reaffirm Secretary McNamara's and my desire that the Joint Chiefs of Staff maintain cognizance and control over all military aerial, surface and submarine reconnaissance operations. We look to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to submit recommendations for all such operations and for reporting on the status of approved missions.

The recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on all reconnaissance operations should include assessments of (1) the intelligence objectives to be achieved, (2) the technical and operational feasibility of proposed missions, and (3) the risks involved. The Directors of DIA and NSA will provide whatever assistance the Joint Chiefs of Staff require in the development of their recommendations.

Commencing with the Joint Chiefs of Staff submission of the March 1968 monthly forecast for peripheral reconnaissance activities, the following two supplemental sections will be included in the same binder:

- (1) A forecast of all submarine reconnaissance missions, and
- (2) A forecast of reconnaissance operations conducted under the overall direction of the Director, NRO. (This supplement will be prepared by the Director, NRO.)

The Joint Chiefs of Staff are requested to submit for my review and approval the appropriate management directives they develop for governing the conduct of all military aerial, surface, and submarine reconnaissance operations. In these directives, provision should specifically be made for the special functions the Deputy Director for Reconnaissance, J-3, discharges on behalf of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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